

Albuquerque District Mining Office
Conservation Division
P. O. Box 69
Albuquerque, New Mexico 87103

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PUEBLO OF LAGUNA
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Authorized by: SC

Date: 6/12/13

Mine Inspection Report
P-10 and P-13 Mines
Anaconda Copper Company
Pueblo of Laguna Uranium Lease 4
Township 10 North, Range 5 West, NMPN
Cibola County, New Mexico
December 31, 1981

December 17, 1981, I inspected the P-10 and P-13 Mines with Mr. Ray Brady and Mr. Marc Nelson of the South Central Region. We were accompanied by Mr. Mark Witt of Anaconda. The purpose of the inspection was to determine the status of the underground mining operations.

Mining operations in the P-10 Mine have been completed. The 200 Haulage Drift was extended into the southernmost P-15 area of the Mine, but there was not sufficient ore to continue mining into April 1982 as originally planned. Upon retreating from the P-15 area, mining was completed with the extraction of the 202 Stops directly above the 200 Haulage Drift. At the time of this inspection, crews were salvaging underground equipment such as locomotives, ore cars, pipe and power cables. Mine personnel stated that the salvage operations were being conducted on an irregular schedule but removal of all equipment including pumps should be completed in January 1982.

The P-13 Mine is actually an extension of the P-10 Mine, and Anaconda originally planned to physically connect the P-13 underground workings to the P-10 decline. Subsequent economic conditions reduced the recoverable ore reserves in the P-13 Mine, and the connection was not necessary. Access to the P-13 ore is provided by two adits in the highwall of the South Pagate Pit, and ore development was continuing at the time of this inspection. According to mine personnel, the extent of the P-13 mining will be significantly less than originally planned.

The NJ-45 Mine is a small adit project in the highwall of the North Jackpile Pit under Gavilan Mesa. Four adits were collared to access the ore zones, but only three will now be developed. The NJ-45 operations were not inspected, but mine personnel stated that ore development and extraction were continuing. However, as with the P-13 Mine, the extent of the NJ-45 mining will be significantly less than originally scheduled.

Anaconda has advised the Geological Survey and other involved parties that all operations at the Jackpile-Pagate Mine will cease permanently March 31, 1982; however, written confirmation of the cessation, as required by 25 CFR 177.9(d)(1), has not been submitted. Statements and observations made during this inspection



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indicate that abandonment of the P-10, P-13 and NJ-45 Mines prior to or shortly after the required submittal could prohibit access to the underground workings due to removal of essential ventilation and pumping equipment. This would be contrary to 30 CFR 231.41 and creates two major concerns. First, the final abandonment of the mine entries (decline, ventilation shafts, and adits) is subject to completion of the Jackpile-Paguate EIS and approval of a reclamation plan for the entire Jackpile-Paguate Mine. The mine entries should not be rendered inaccessible until adequate abandonment procedures have been determined. Second, 30 CFR 231.3 and 231.31 require that the Geological Survey assure maximum resource recovery in the mining operations. Since the underground mining is ceasing earlier than planned, there could be some questions about maximum recovery, and these questions should be answered before the mine workings are inaccessible. Assuring maximum resource recovery will require Anaconda's submittal of various ore reserve and mining data.

In behalf of the above concerns and under the provisions of 30 CFR 231.41, Anaconda will be advised that all existing access to the P-10, P-13 and NJ-45 Mines (including ventilation, ground support and pumping equipment) must be maintained until final abandonment of the mine workings is approved in writing by the Geological Survey. Furthermore, under the provisions of 25 CFR 171.24, Anaconda will be advised that all mining equipment used for the P-10, P-13 and NJ-45 Mines should not be removed from the leased premises without prior written approval from the Geological Survey. Anaconda will also be requested to submit the ore reserve and mining data needed to answer questions about maximum resource recovery.

(ORIG. SGD.) DALE C. JONES

Dale C. Jones
District Mining Supervisor

cc:
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